

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 08327 270953Z  
ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 SSO-00 /018 W  
-----005635 270955Z /11

O 270920Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1851

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 8327

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: CDES IN (PALATT, PAUL)  
SUBJECT: DEATH OF PAUL PALATT

REF: STATE 135046 AND PREVIOUS

1. CONSOFF HAS CONTACTED MOUNTAINEERING FOUNDATION AUTHORITIES IN DELHI WHO ARE ATTEMPTING REACH POLICE OFFICIALS IN JOSHI MATH TO DETERMINE PRESENT STATUS OF SEARCH PARTIES LOOKING FOR BODY OF PAUL PALATT WHO ON MAY 18 FELL FROM LOG BRIDGE INTO RISHI GANGA RIVER SOME 34

KILOMETERS NORTH OF THERE. PROBLEM OF COMMUNICATION WITH THIS REMOTE AREA IS ENORMOUS BUT MOUNTAINEERING FOUNDATION HOPES TO HAVE RESPONSE SOON. THEY HAVE REQUESTED LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN JOSHI MATH TO ALSO CONTACT INDIAN ARMY MOUNTAIN BRIGADE IN AREA TO DETERMINE IF THEY CAN HELP IN SEARCH.

2. AFTER MANY ATTEMPTS, ONE FAINT TELEPHONE CONTACT BY EMBASSY WITH JOSHI MATH AUTHORITIES ON MORNING OF MAY 27 INDICATED BODY STILL NOT FOUND. WE WERE UNABLE TO HEAR WELL ENOUGH TO LEARN PRESENT STATUS OF SEARCH BUT ARE CONTINUING EFFORTS TO COMMUNICATE.

3. LOCAL MOUNTAINEERING OFFICIALS STATE THAT RISH GANGA RIVER IN THIS AREA AT THIS TIME OF YEAR IS SWIFT AND DEEP AND THAT THEY BELIEVE IT IS NOT POSSIBLE PAUL PALETT IS STILL ALIVE OR THAT BODY WILL BE FOUND. THEY WILL ENDEAVOR TO JOIN SEARCH IF JOSHI  
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MATH AUTHORITIES INDICATE THIS WILL BE USEFUL.

4. POST HAS ALSO MADE PRELIMINARY CHECK TO SEE IF HELICOPTERS OR OTHER TYPE SEARCH COULD BE SENT FROM DELHI BUT IS INFORMED HELICOPTER USE NOT FEASIBLE IN THIS AREA AND THAT SEARCH MOST CAPABLY AND MOST LIKELY BEING ALREADY DONE BY MOUNTAINEERS ALREADY IN JOSH MATH AREA. GENERALLY MOUNTAIN EXPEDITION GROUPS CONDUCT

OWN SEARCH WHEN MEMBER IS LOST AND IT IS PRESUMED THIS IS WHAT IS NOW BEING DONE.

5. IN ADDITION TO REFTELS, AMBASSADOR GOHEEN HAS RECEIVED PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM HOWARD SWEARER, PRESIDENT OF BROWN UNIVERSITY, STATING THAT ELDERLY PARENTS OF PALATT ARE OVERCOME WITH GRIEF, HOPE PALATT STILL ALIVE, AND REQUEST INFORMATION.

6. DEPARTMENT THEREFORE PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO HOWARD SWEARER, PRESIDENT OF BROWN UNIVERSITY, PROVIDENCE RI: VERY MUCH APPRECIATE PARENTS GRIEF AND ANXIETY OVER NEWS OF PAUL PALATT'S DEATH. EMBASSY IN CONTACT WITH INDIAN MOUNTAINEERING FOUNDATION OFFICIALS IN DELHI AND ALSO MAKING EVERY EFFORT CONTACT AUTHORITIES IN JOSHI MATH TO DETERMINE PRESENT STATUS OF SEARCH EFFORTS. THIS IS HOWEVER IN REMOTE AREA OF HIMALAYAN MOUNTAINS AND COMMUNICATION DIFFICULT. OUR ONLY INFORMATION TO DATE IS THAT THE BODY HAS NOT YET BEEN FOUND. REGRETTABLY, WE ARE TOLD THAT THE RIVER AT POINT WHERE PAUL PALATT FELL IS NOW RUNNING HIGH AND SWIFTLY AND THAT CHANCES OF HIS BEING ALIVE OR THAT BODY WILL BE FOUND ARE MOST REMOTE. I WILL OF COURSE LET YOU KNOW WHEN WE HAVE ANYTHING FURTHER. PLEASE EXTEND MY PERSONAL CONDOLENCES TO THE PALATT FAMILY. SIGNED ROBERT F. GOHEEN.

GOHEEN

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** CDES, IN, (PALATT, PAUL)  
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